

NATIONAL
PARKS
BULLETIN

ISSUED TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

A Private Organization, Nation-Wide, and Non-Political

WASHINGTON, D. C.

in this issue—

Mr. Ickes—Your National Parks

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THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

TODAY an increasing number of public spirited men and women are asking: "What is ahead for the National Parks?" "Shall new roads be built through the Parks?" "Shall gold be sought within their domain?" "Shall the Parks' natural beauties be destroyed?" "Shall commerce encroach upon the Parks?" These and numerous other questions are of vital concern to every American proud of a great natural heritage.

FOUNDED 1919—Since 1919 The National Parks Association has been established to enable the entire nation to have a voice in helping to administer America's National Parks **for the greatest good of the greatest number of people**. Non-political, non-partisan, the Association stands firmly as a check and balance between government, commerce and the people in regard to National Parks.

ACHIEVEMENTS — That The National Parks Association is highly effective in its purpose is a matter of record. Noteworthy among its long list of accomplishments are: Winning the five-year fight to prohibit the damming of Yellowstone Lake for commercial purposes. Helping to establish Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the biggest National Park in the East. And countless instances in educating the people to enjoy primitive areas and to help perpetuate such areas for recreation, inspiration and research.

A CONTINUOUS NEED—The problems concerning the National Parks are continuous. As the nation's political and economic conditions change, new park problems constantly arise. The National Parks Association as a non-partisan organization is therefore necessary. Its work is permanent and must go forward.

THE PROGRAM AHEAD—During 1938 The National Parks Association will push one of its greatest projects, namely, to urge the official and universal recognition of a National Primeval Park System to insure the preservation of the original National Park standards. Other important projects are current, too, and members will find the Association's program currently outlined in the Bulletin.

THE National Parks Association has for 18 years utilized every available means in its power: 1, to perpetuate America's National Parks; 2, to protect the Parks against harmful interference; and 3, to publicize the Parks as sources of beneficial recreation, scientific research and public education. We know our work is accomplishing great results. We know, too, that we cannot make progress without the co-operation of public spirited men, women and organizations. We believe that the readers of this page recognize the need for our unceasing efforts. If you are not already a member, identify yourself with our work. Simply fill in and return the Membership Acceptance inside the back cover.

NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE
NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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COVER—A view that the tourist does not get of Yosemite. Roping down from Arrow Head. In the left background, Washington's Column and the Royal Arches.

The National Parks Bulletin published since 1919. Distributed in the interest of conservationists throughout America. Presenting timely discussions on topics of vital importance for the perpetuation of Amer-

ica's National Primeval Parks as areas of "unmodified natural condition." Address all letters, manuscripts and other communications to the Executive Secretary, 1624 H. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

MR. ICKES—YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

An open letter to the Secretary of the Interior, calling attention to certain conditions that exist today in the National Park Service.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

The National Park Service has been expanding rapidly in recent years—so rapidly that the original precepts and ideals upon which the Service was founded appear to have become lost or forgotten. State parks, recreational areas, national parks and primeval national parks have been shuffled and jumbled until today a confused American public scarcely knows which is which.

Within the field of National Park administration, as you know, two widely divergent policies exist. One is reflected in the state park group which favors a program of vast expansion for the Park Service. The other is expressed by a handful of old-line Service men, loyal to traditions and original standards and trained for many years in the administration of the primeval national parks.

So first, let us look at the Service men, the group consisting for the most part of the men in the field—regional officers, superintendents, and their immediate personnel. They are working under serious handicaps. Yellowstone provides a clear-cut example, although similar situations prevail in several other primeval parks. Here, several years ago, the chief ranger of the park was furloughed out on state park work. As a result of the transfer he was given a considerable increase in salary. Yet his position in Yellowstone and his civil service status is still held open pending his very doubtful return. Because his old position is still open, the deserved advancement of those he left behind has not been forthcoming. This has forestalled a natural stepping up all down the line. Those men who have worked loyally for years feel they deserve promotion. Yet nothing has been done in their behalf. As the months pass into years, the ideal of loyalty and service is fast turning into a feeling of discouragement and bitterness. Lack of morale is evident where a few years ago the spirit of service prevailed. Request after request for announcement of a definite policy pertinent to the situation has been ignored.

Another cause for deep concern is the failure on the part of the Washington office of the Service to issue instructions or policies with respect to the administration of the primeval parks. Consequently,

the superintendents find themselves left out on a limb whenever a situation arises that only general policy can determine. Their appeals to Washington ignored, these park administrators are forced to determine among themselves the wisest course to pursue.

There is the case of Glacier, which is interesting if only to illustrate that what should be done has not been done. Glacier is the "fire" park of the System. Forty-five per cent of its acreage is blind to fire observatories and regular fire patrol. In 1936 over two hundred fires were started. The majority of those were the result of lightning that hit in some remote section and smouldered for days before a fatal tell-tale wisp of smoke could be seen by an observer. Realizing, therefore, the need for additional look-outs and having on hand sufficient funds to build three, the park staff sent plans for these to Washington in the spring of 1936. The plans were held up all through that summer and then, after the Heavens Peak fire in August of that year had claimed two thousand and more acres, the plans were returned to the park staff. Instead of three, the revised plans called for only one look-out, and that one at a cost considerably greater than the total cost of the three that were originally requested. No funds were left available to man it. Glacier, today, is operating its fire forces on the allotment of one cent per acre where a minimum of six cents is, in the opinion of the park staff, necessary to assure fairly adequate protection. It is high time, then, that the Park Service got busy on a few things like this instead of spending badly needed money on reconnoitering second-rate areas and playing in the sand along the Virginia seashore.

Finally, there is the matter of overdevelopment within the primeval parks. Excessive and unnecessary road building has played havoc in Yellowstone, Rainier and Yosemite, to mention a few. At present in Yosemite the new Tioga Pass road of some seventy odd miles is under construction. Since there is a road to this point already, the need for this new one is somewhat obscure. Nevertheless, it is being built—a splendid asphalt speedway. In Rainier, a few years ago, a road was built for quite a few miles, intended to encircle the mountain along its western slopes. This road has been abandoned, to be sure. And while no one seems to know why it was ever undertaken, the fact remains it is there, the ruination of one of the park's splendid wilderness areas. At present, in Rainier, the Stevens Gap road is under construction. Swinging around the south slope of the mountain, its ultimate destination is Yakima

Park on the eastern side. This road could have been constructed around and outside the south boundary of the park. But it wasn't.

Overdevelopment within the primeval parks is a source of indignation to many people. The best example is found in Yosemite Valley. Here a careful study of the situation with an eye to remedy is very much needed. Let me present a picture of Yosemite Valley as it appeared to me this past summer.

The most important thing in Yosemite National Park, of course, is the Valley. It is also the biggest problem in the park today. A short distance from the base of El Capitan and along the banks of the Merced River is located Yosemite Lodge, a swimming pool and many various kinds of overnight lodges. A few miles further up the Valley from this are government headquarters. Proceeding a few miles above government headquarters is found the Awanhee Hotel. Beyond this point and on the right-hand side of the Merced River is Camp Curry. This camp consists entirely of the people who come by automobile, who either pitch a tent or rent a tent already pitched. These people have a thirty-day limit. They make their headquarters at Camp Curry where one finds a veritable village—a post office, a garage and service station, a cafeteria, an outdoor stage for evening shows, a general store and liquor store, and a dance hall.

The number of people who bustle and scurry about Camp Curry is unbelievable. Here in a small concentrated area the majority of Yosemite's visitors are squeezed together. Here, too, is centered their social life. It is readily apparent that people coming to Yosemite are going to stay at Camp Curry because of the various attractions offered at a price they can afford. People seem to bring with them not so much a desire to be camping in the wilderness as a desire to continue the routine of life to which the city has accustomed them. The dance hall appears to be the main attraction along with the possibility of purchasing necessary supplies and liquid refreshment. After spending an evening at Camp Curry one finds it hard to believe that he is within a national park. The mass of humanity seeking pleasures which are readily accessible to them at home is more reminiscent of a carnival outing than a camping ground in a primeval park.

During daylight hours literally hundreds of people swarm the banks of the Merced River to bathe and swim. On the occasional sandy strips along the river bank as many people are jammed into those limited areas as can be found in comparable areas at an eastern seashore beach. Aside from the fact that this is a grievous offense to the sense of sight and smell, a dangerous and unsanitary condition results. In the month of August the Merced River

moves slowly. With hundreds of people bathing in it, it is not like a fast moving stream which is comparatively clean as a result of fresh water pouring in and stagnant water pouring out.

These facts are mentioned to give a picture of the problem of Yosemite Valley, which is one of overdevelopment and over crowding. It has been urged that the new Tioga Pass road will divert some of the people from the Valley to the High Sierra country in Tuolumne Meadows. This is questionable since at the present time there is an excellent road to the hotel and camp grounds at Glacier Point where only a handful of people go. Therefore, some other plan will have to be worked out. For instance:

- (1) Why not reduce the camp stay from thirty days to fifteen days in order to help produce as steady a flow of people going out of the Valley as that coming in.
- (2) Why not determine the number of people that can be comfortably and sensibly housed in the Valley and restrict entrance after that limit has been reached.
- (3) Why not increase the fee for entrance for automobiles and parties coming into the Valley with the intention of camping there for the full limit of time.
- (4) Why not remove the government owned and operated tent sites and use this extra available space for the purpose of spreading out camp sites for those bringing their own tents and equipment. This suggestion is based on the fact that the lodge at the south end of the Valley is doing very little business because their cheapest rate is \$3.00 a night and people can rent a government tent for considerably less. If these tent sites are removed it would force people who come in without equipment to utilize the south end of the Valley and leave the northern end for those who have to camp out. If such a spreading out were accomplished successfully, there then would be no need for the village which has sprung up around Camp Curry. It would only be necessary to maintain a general store, a post office and a service station at Camp Curry. The general store and service station at Yosemite Lodge would take care of the group staying there.

- (5) At Camp Curry, which presents the greatest problem, the removal of the dance hall, liquor store and cafeteria might conceivably do away with the massing of people in these areas in the evening. Not one of these three mentioned would be necessary in the life of those who would then inhabit the Camp Curry area for the purpose of camping out there. A cafeteria at Yosemite Lodge for those coming in and taking a cabin there would be all that would be necessary. Those people with sufficient funds would, of course, patronize the Awanhee Hotel further up the Valley.

It is generally agreed that a restriction on the number of people coming into the Valley would go a long way toward solving the problem. But it has been pointed out that such a restriction would raise a great hue and cry in California, which sooner or later would be heard in Congress and which might easily result in a cut in the annual appropriation

for the operation of Yosemite Park. This may be very true.

On the other hand, there is a limit to everything, even the capacity of Yosemite Valley. The situation has progressed to the point where some drastic measures will have to be used, and the sooner the problem is squarely faced the better. There is enough room in Yosemite Park to accommodate, for instance, the excessive visitors of this past summer, provided of course that the people are spread out over the Park and are not concentrated in the Valley. That people insist on concentrating in the upper valley leads one to justifiably suspect that the attractions offered at Camp Curry are the cause of it. The problem involved is one of human psychology rather than the need for additional camp sites. It is quite probable that the majority of people going into Yosemite Valley leave home with the idea that they will go up and camp, walk about the trails, fish here and there and enjoy two weeks or a month in the open air. They reach Camp Curry and their resolve in this respect is sorely tempted by the presence of vaudeville entertainment, drinking places and a dance hall.

The foregoing presentations have been made for the purpose of bringing out a general lack of policy on the one hand and a program of overdevelopment on the other. Or, if you wish, they present a vicious circle wherein one leads inevitably to the other. Now let us try to find the reason for all these difficulties that beset the primeval park men out in the field.

When the state park movement began some years back, it was intended to coordinate the work of the federal and state governments in state park planning. It was presumed to carry out its work under the guidance and the administration of the National Park Service. But, like Topsy, the state park group "just growed." Armed with state park funds, state park beliefs, and state park officials, this organization has progressed to the point where, today, it dominates the old National Park Service, and in the wake of its progress to the heights it left behind a group of old Service men disappointed and embittered as they see the choicest places to which they felt they were rightfully entitled handed out to state park men. Distrust of this state park group is another feeling that has been evidenced on the part of many. In this respect, a bit of past history is interesting.

In the spring of 1936 the efforts of the state park organization to regionalize the National Park Service by placing in charge of regional offices men whose only experience in the field had been with state parks were denounced as attributable to political and personal ambitions. Apparently the superintendents in the field felt the same way, for they converged on Washington for a meeting which is now referred to

as "bloody Saturday." This took place in February of 1936. As a result of the meeting, a written agreement was drawn and signed by national park officials and state park officials alike, to the effect that any regionalization would be a Park Service one in so far as personnel was concerned; that at the head of each regional office would be a recognized old-line Park Service man; that, although a state park man might be appointed as assistant to the regional director, the balance of the personnel required to handle the offices would find old-line Park Service men admitted to the key positions to which their length of service justifiably entitled them.

This agreement was conveniently disposed of a short time after the park superintendents left for the field. Until June of this year, not a word further was given to the field as to what might be expected. Then in July, 1937, the present regionalization headed by experienced Park Service men was announced. But although the regional offices are headed by old-line men, the state park group, by reason of its aggressiveness and the large amount of money it has been allotted, is still very much a power to be reckoned with. The future has yet to be proved.

Addition of new National Parks to the system is one of the foremost items on the program of the state park group. Irrespective of the worth or value of the areas, a strong drive is being made to take into primeval park status as much territory as may prove available. With the control of the National Park Service carefully tucked under its wing, the state park organization could increase its political prestige among the several states by grabbing up lands and turning them into national parks. Only an act of Congress is necessary to do so; but surely no act of Congress can bring a second-rate area up to the standards of a primeval park that nothing but an act of God could originally create. A good example is the proposed Mt. Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine. Two Park Service expeditions have already visited this area, and Representative Brewster of Maine has a bill in this session of Congress to make it into a national Park. Lumbered several times, considerably fire-swept and lacking in primeval continuity, the Katahdin area of some four hundred square miles has not a single standard upon which to base its claim for entrance into the primeval national park system. To include it would be a flagrant violation of all that our primeval parks stand for. If the area needs federal administration through federal ownership, then it might better be classed as a recreational area and not as a national park. Yet expansionists want areas like Katahdin in the national park system regardless of the bad effect that might inevitably result from the association of such low type areas with the *(Continued on page 26)*

CLIMBING THE AMERICAN ALPS

By OLIVER KEHRLEIN

One of America's foremost climbers tells of a thrilling sport steadily gaining in popularity in the National Parks of the West.

TO MOUNTAINEERS, the National Parks mean mountains. Mountains mean climbing and the adventure that goes with it. Other places may have this meaning too, but the National Parks render the best of these locations "accessible," thanks to the Service—and we herewith extend our sincerest appreciation for this accessibility.

The term Mountaineers of course may include all men of the out-of-doors who understand and love the wildernesses with their flora and fauna and who are willing to forego the conveniences of civilization to enjoy these remote places.

But since much has been written about the plant and animal life of our Parks, this article will confine itself to mountaineering in the Alpine Zones. However, no inference should be drawn that the true Alpine climber is not really appreciative of nature in all of her manifestations, whether on the summit crags or in the sub-timberline forests.

Of course we Californians will select the Yosemite and the Sequoia National Parks as the best climbing areas in America.

In the Yosemite one may find either the simplest or the most technical forms of climbing. The tourist may follow a fine trail to the top of Cloud's Rest or Sentinel Dome, or accompany a Ranger Naturalist to the worthwhile summits of Half Dome, Dana, Lyell or Conness. The more hardy ones are sometimes inveigled onto the steeped pinnacles of Cathedral Peak by Ranger Naturalist Carl Seharmith.

These are fine accomplishments. Many a tourist, who from these summits has enjoyed a most inspiring view of the Sierra Crest or the deep valleys from 5,000 to 10,000 feet below, has progressed on to more strenuous climbing. In which case he can take on Mt. Clark, Unicorn Peak, Columbia's Finger, Cockscomb Ridge or go further afield into that older formation of metamorphosed volcanic rock in the Ritter group. As he gains confidence and technical ability, he will find plenty of thrills amongst the serrated needles of the Minarets or the ragged turrets of the Sawtooth Ridge. As most of these mountains are surrounded by glaciers, he will gather a bit of ice and snow experience.

The timber line of all of these peaks is readily accessible from a perfect system of well kept trails, which eliminates a great deal of bush-wacking and route finding. This leaves more time and reserve effort for the more serious work at hand.

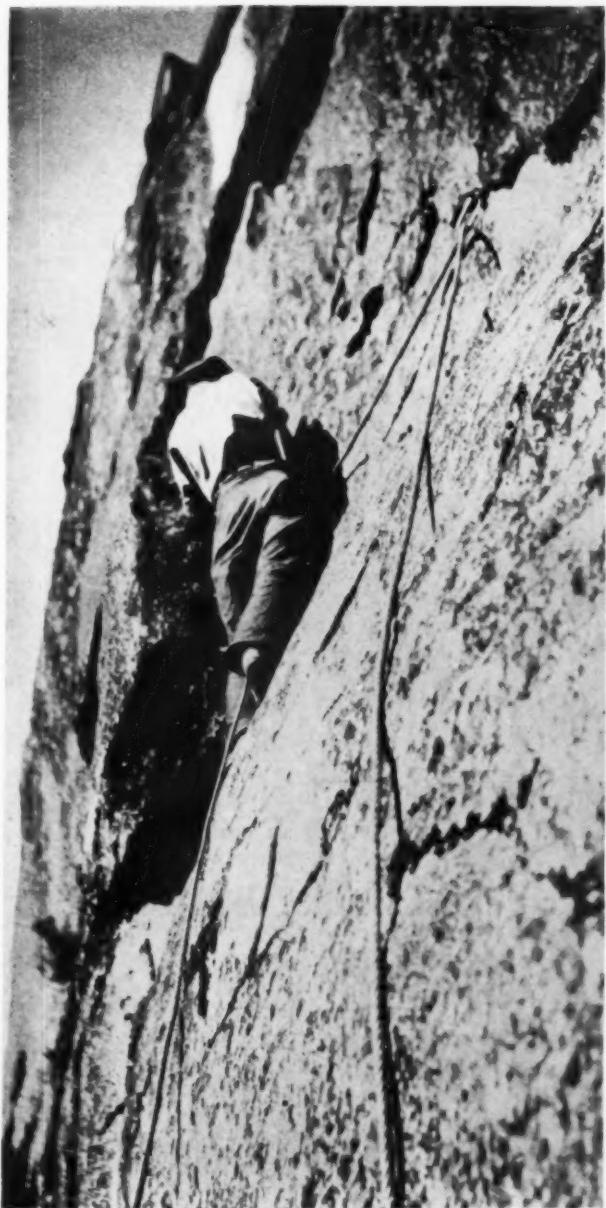
It might be well to state here that, with the exception of the Ritter-Banner-Minaret group, all of the Yosemite peaks are granitic, thus insuring good firm rock with reliable hand holes. Fracture planes occur frequently enough to provide plenty of chimneys, cracks and ledges which lure one on with security up the most difficult faces.

Yosemite Valley, of course, is the world's best example of perpendicular walls and abounds in the finest of purely technical climbs of the fifth and sixth class. By way of explanation, a fifth class climb is one in which the hazard is such that the climber should be protected by ropes relayed through pitons and carabiners above the second man on his string. Sixth class includes the hardest of the fifth, where a delicate sense of balance is needed, where exposure is great and elimability approaches our present ultimate.

The Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club visits the Yosemite Valley three or four times each year for organized climbing. New and increasingly difficult climbs are devised during each visit. Usually these extremely difficult climbs are achieved only after much study and frequent attempts. They are restricted to climbers whose ability has been scrutinized by the leaders, for we are jealous of our sport and want no accidents to mar its reputation.

The better known rock-climbs in Yosemite include Washington's Column, which is ascended on its perpendicular face for about two-thirds and then by a delicate traverse into the gulley to the west. Just beyond are the Royal Arches, which to the eye appear unclimbable. A series of cracks and a couple of swinging rope traverses, however, make this climb possible. Next comes the newly contrived climb of the Arrow Head. This needle rises just east of the Yosemite Falls but is not to be confused with the Lost Arrow. This latter monolith has been surveyed from every side and given up as beyond our present ability and technique. Further west lie the Three Brothers, whose faces tempt all classes of climbers each year.

Standing out from the opposite wall, like two weathered fingers, rise the Cathedral Spires, about 2,000 feet above the valley floor. These were only



The start of the famous "flake pitch" on the Lower Spire. This shows the protection provided by the rope passed through the carabiner which is hooked into a piton.

surmounted after many unsuccessful attempts and are achievements which satisfy the best of our cragmen. They call for extreme and continuous caution and the highest of technical ability. The ascent takes usually from seven to eleven hours, while the descent, by roping down, may be made in an hour or

so. Their faces average 87 degrees and frequently overhang, so that climbing problems arise continuously. One of these is the famous "flake pitch."

About two-thirds up on the Lower Spire is a perpendicular face of about 100 feet, broken only by a large flake of granite which stands out from the face by less than a foot. The reaching and surmounting of this scanty flake of rock is a delicate bit of work and tests the nerve and stamina of the very best of climbers. As no other route up the Lower Spire is apparent, its summit will be unattainable when and if this flake spalls off.

The Yosemite offers another rather unusual form of climbing, which we might term "dome climbing." As there are no cleavage planes evident on the domes which abound in this locality, there are no cracks or ledges and therefore no hand holes. Here one relies solely on friction, and crepe-soled sneakers are necessary. Pitches up to 37 and 40 degrees can be negotiated. One problem of this type of climbing is to find a secure spot where a stance can be taken from which to protect a fellow climber. Starr King Dome is a good example and Half Dome would be if the Service did not maintain a cabled ladder up its northerly shoulder. Hundreds of tourists yearly get the thrill of a major climb as they pull themselves up by means of these steel cables and wooden cleats. For them it is a real achievement and does demand true nerve on the part of a rookie.

In California, we cannot boast of our ice and snow climbing, but the winter accessibility made possible by the Park Service gives us some compensation. Each winter our hardiest climbers sally forth to assail such peaks as Lyell and Clark in the teeth of the fiercest of blizzards. True arctic conditions are met with and the party must be prepared to bivouac in sub-zero weather.

Further south, the Sequoia National Park offers a different type of problem. Here the Sierra Nevadas rise to their extreme height, with many mountain masses to lure one on. Here mountaineering is a matter of route finding. First ascents (the mountaineer's blue ribbon) can still be achieved and new routes worked out up old mountains. At the present time, practically all of our major named peaks have been climbed. Yet there are about 400 of the 960 odd peaks with elevations over 9,000 feet and which rise 500 feet above the surrounding terrain, which, to our knowledge, have not been conquered. Here is a good field for some pioneer spirits.

While an easy approach can usually be found to most of the Sierra summits, an ambitious climber can also find some good sporty rock work on any of them. A fine example of this is Mt. Whitney. Horse trails lead to this highest point in the United States from the East and from the West and easy climbs may be

found on each of its faces. Yet the strenuous rock climbers have worked out several spectacular routes up its perpendicular east face of nearly 2,000 feet. While hundreds, yearly, stagger to the register book on its summit, a mere handful accomplish the more difficult ascent.

This east face climb is proving quite popular and is being regularly publicized in the newspapers. Climbers have dubbed the various difficult pitches with such titles as the "open air traverse" and the "shaky-leg-crack" where a two-man stand starts the climb and the lower man's quivering limbs become disconcerting to the climber perched on his airy shoulders. Then peace and assurance come upon reaching the "washboard" series of ledges. It is always a blow to the vanity of the "dude" who is glorying in his achievement of the regular trail to the top and is peeking gingerly over the half mile high escarpment to perceive a rope of climbers precariously working their way up this wall.

As most of California's fourteen thousand foot peaks are situated in this territory, we might mention that it is the ambition of all climbers to get them all on his list. There are thirteen in the State and all are more or less easy. Of these the North Palisade has always been counted the most difficult. It has now passed into the category of "an easy day for a lady," but its north, or glacier face, still offers a lot of excellent rock work.

Our second highest peak is Mt. Williamson. The problem here is one of route finding in a maze of chimneys which tend to lead one up a sequence of blind alleys. Further north we find Mt. Humphreys with its "married men's monument." Here family men are supposed to suddenly become aware of their marital responsibilities and turn back. Then there is Table Mountain with its curious mile square plateau surrounded by apparently impregnable walls and Jordan with its final leap across a chasm to the summit block.

And so the list lengthens out, each mountain with some characteristic of its own. The Mountain Records Committee of the Sierra Club is cataloguing them all. Photographs, climbing records and other data of each are being carefully compiled.

California offers an easy but freakish climb in the ascent of Telescope Peak in Death Valley National Monument. Here by road and trail one may climb from the lowest and hottest point in the United States to 11,045 feet atop this summit often covered with snow. This is per-



THE AUTHOR ROPING DOWN ONE OF THE GRANITIC WALLS NEAR THE YOSEMITE FALLS.

haps one of the longest direct differentials in elevation in the country and affords a truly wonderful view of the east of the weird desolate valley below and the whole snow capped Sierra Nevada to the west.

Stepping out of California, we meet with conditions which contradict our accepted precept: "If we can climb up, we can always get down." For in the southwestern parks, such as the Grand Canyon, the cragsman starts his climb downward, and is not always able to get back up, being left low and very dry on some arid plateau. Many an overzealous tourist reaches the Colorado River only to peter out on the way back and have the rangers send a horse down to haul him back to the rim. These parks have not proved very popular with our group of climbers, due to the unsoundness of the sedimentary formations.

At the other extreme is the ice and snow climbing of the North with its problems of avalanches and blizzards. Here blind route finding requires a navigator and freezing to death presents a real hazard. The Rangers of Rainier National Park know these risks and measuring our human limitations against the vagaries of the Grand Old Mountain have laid down some extremely stringent rules. While experienced mountaineers may chafe at these regulations, undoubtedly many a life has been saved by them.

As we pass by Yellowstone we come to the mountaineer's paradise in the Tetons. Here the climber and ranger are the greatest of pals, for their interests are one. No policing of "dudes" diverts the attentions of these fine fellows who know their technique and routes as well as the best rock climbers. Dr. Fritiof M. Fryxell's little book is comprehensive and will serve as a most reliable guide to beginner and expert alike. Our only hope is that the service will some day locate a couple of timberline shelter huts from which the final assaults may start. One may concentrate several seasons of worthwhile climbing among these glorious peaks and get a new adventure every day.

Moving on to our northern border, in Glacier National Park, the climber comes upon a fascinating country of great scenic beauty and up-standing peaks at every turn. Sedimentary formations mixed with hard dioritic bands keep him on the qui vive every moment of the climb. Large parties are undesirable on difficult climbs on account of the loose rock. Ropes are not absolutely essential in climbing but become necessary on the glaciers and add to the fun and efficiency in descending the many cliff-like ledges.

This park is a natural museum for the student of geology, and being on both sides of the Continental Divide, it is a perfect text book for those interested in flora and fauna. This summer the members of our Sierra Club found the local Ranger Naturalists well versed in all these subjects as well as being

competent climbers.

Seventy-three individuals made the ascents of various major peaks, while we were in the park, and visited most of the larger glaciers. In nearly all cases new routes were attempted.

Sierrans found bushwhacking through the dense undergrowth unpleasant as well as time-consuming, especially when the difference in elevations between the summits and camp sites is taken into account. An extreme example of this was Mt. Cleveland, which rose nearly 6,000 feet above Waterton Lake, where we camped. Twenty members climbed this peak and twenty-seven made the top of Going-to-the-Sun. A new route was found through the diorite band on the impregnable Mt. Wilbur, and a first ascent claimed of Kinnerly Peak.

So all in all mountaineers have much for which to thank the Service. Our mountains are made accessible by fine roads and a comprehensive system of trails. Well trained Ranger Naturalists can be found everywhere with a fund of knowledge available for both tourist and expert. Above all we always know that a fine corps of men is close at hand to render assistance in case of emergency. We are grateful for all these things and hope that, in some way, we will be able to reciprocate.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—*The author of the foregoing article, Mr. Oliver Kehrlein, enjoys the enviable distinction of being one of America's foremost climbers. By virtue of his wide experience on many of the peaks in such national parks as Yosemite, Glacier and Grand Teton, Mr. Kehrlein is well qualified to write on the rigors and thrills which accompany his hazardous hobby.*

The Sierra Club of California, of which Mr. Kehrlein is a leading member, has done immeasurable good in focusing the public's attention upon little known areas within national parks—the alpine peaks. Each year Sierra Club members invade one or two of the national parks for the purpose of discovering new trails and first ascents. This past summer a group from this Club numbering one hundred and fifty journeyed from San Francisco to Glacier National Park where under severest weather conditions they scaled many of the park's hardest peaks and returned to their homes claiming credit for the first successful ascent of the famous Kinnerly Peak.

The editors of the National Parks Bulletin feel especially privileged to present to its readers this first published account of the accomplishments of the Sierra Club and particularly of Mr. Kehrlein who has done so much in bringing before the American public the spirit and the inspiration of climbing in the alpine zones of our national parks.

YOUTH ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

By JAMES A. FOOTE

"Please, Mr. President, we need your help. Give us the Olympic National Park!"

THIS bannered inscription greeted the Chief Executive several weeks ago when he landed at Port Angeles in the Olympic peninsula. School children of this picturesque northwest village to whom he was due to say a few words inadvertently bespoke the wishes of thousands of national park believers throughout the nation. To them and to that banner President Roosevelt replied: "That sign on the schoolhouse is the appealingest appeal that I have seen in all my travels. I am inclined to think that it means more to have the children want that park than all the rest of us put together. So, you boys and girls, I think you can count on my help in getting that national park. It is not only because we need it for us old people and you young people but for a

whole lot of young people who are going to come along in the next hundred years of America."

The keynote of future administration for the proposed Mt. Olympus park was sounded in the President's dramatic promise—a national park primarily for the youth of America!

Here, truly, is a remarkably splendid area of outstanding primeval character. Since 1936 it has clamored, by its very merit, for the status of a primeval park. It is a paradise, with its rough trails and lean-to shelters, for energetic youth that seeks its pleasures in a setting of the world's finest Douglas fir, rushing streams, unbelievably blue glaciers and snow-clad mountain peaks. Small alpine lakes and high meadows filled with flowers lend a touch of softness to the rugged grandeur that surrounds them. Abounding in salmon and trout, ranged by the Roosevelt elk, inhabited by deer and cougar alike that



U. S. Dept. of the Interior

LOOKING EAST ALONG THE HIGH DIVIDE BETWEEN THE QUEETS AND THE NORTH FORK OF THE QUINALT IN MT. OLYMPUS NATIONAL MONUMENT. MT. SEATTLE IS AT THE EXTREME LEFT.



U. S. Dept. of the Interior

VIEW OF THE FAMOUS BLUE GLACIER, MOUNT OLYMPUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

roam a natural habitat, this area of the proposed Olympic park is wilderness of high caliber. Only a few truck trails dead-ending and penetrating only to its foothills disturb the sense of wild country that prevails. All along the trails, on foot or on horse, can be found young enthusiasts out for the pleasurable enjoyment that only an area naturally designed for the self-sufficient can give them. Here they see first-hand the results of good conservation and learn to appreciate the value and wisdom of the doctrine of preservation. Here, too, is born in the hearts of those who travel Olympic trails a keen sense of personal responsibility toward the nation's system of primeval parks.

Beautiful is the word for these Olympic mountains with their shining glaciers and surrounding dark green forests. Majestic is their superb setting with the great Pacific westward and the deep blue of Puget Sound to the east. A national park in every sense of requisites and standards, this area as proposed in the present Wallgren Bill awaits only an act of Congress before taking its rightful place alongside of Glacier, Yosemite, Yellowstone and others.

The National Parks Association favors the establishment of the Mt. Olympus National Park. Appearing in these pages is a resolution to that effect. There are, however, a few points that ought to be brought out at this time to explain clearly the reason for this Association's stand.

The Mt. Olympus National Monument, created by order of one President and cut in half to its present size by order of another President, today embraces some 322,000 acres. Of recent years agitation to add to the acreage of this area from lands under the jurisdiction of the Olympic National Forest and convert it to national primeval park status has been rife. Two bills for this purpose have been entered in Congress by Representative Wallgren of Washington. The first, entered in the second session of the 74th Congress, called for an addition of 400,000 acres to the existing monument. Reported out favorably by the House Committee on Public Lands, the bill died on the calendar. Further surveys of the area in the summer of 1936 caused the National Park Service to urge Mr. Wallgren to enter another bill in this present session of Congress. Mr. Wallgren did so, and

when the bill appeared it was noted that new boundaries had been drawn. Instead of adding 400,000 acres to the present monument, only 320,000 acres are now to be added. This situation provoked considerable controversy. The National Parks Association, therefore, sent two representatives to Olympus this past summer. On the basis of their report, the Association's Executive Committee voted to support the present bill with its smaller boundaries.

Our position in the matter can be stated simply. The present monument of some 322,000 acres, plus 320,000 acres to be withdrawn from the Olympic National Forest would make not only a representative primeval park but one which would rank high in park standards and park requirements as well. This total area of some 642,000 acres is sufficient to protect and provide range for the Roosevelt elk; it contains some of the finest and most representative stands of Douglas fir and Pacific coast conifers; it is up to par scientifically; it is of primeval character; and it is outstanding in beauty and rugged majesty.

Aside from the point that there is little to be gained in insisting on a larger park than the one now planned, is the fact that the larger area originally proposed would include a good deal of land lacking in national park caliber. Noting that the present boundaries effect a reduction of some 78,000 acres in the original proposal of 1936, it is pointed out that these discarded acres are, for the most part, in the Lake Quinault section. In fact, Lake Quinault itself has been left out of the present scheme. It must be remembered that saw timber and pulp make up an industry upon which is based nearly all of the economic life of the Olympic Peninsula. A large area of commercially valuable forest badly needed by the industries of the Peninsula is found in this Lake Quinault section as well as along the lower Hoh and Bogachiel Rivers. To insist on the inclusion of these lands within the proposed park very possibly might have had effects upon the economic life of the people. There are, however, some nine sections along the lower Bogachiel River of park caliber that have been left out of the present bill. But these areas, consist-

ing primarily of outstanding Douglas fir, are in private ownership. Federal acquisition could only be had after lengthy condemnation proceedings and subsequent purchase. They will always be there and can be acquired at some later date, provided they still retain their present primeval condition.

There is one flaw in the present boundaries to which the National Parks Association objects. It must be remedied if the Association is to continue to support the Olympic park. This is it. The north boundary of the proposed area runs along the hillside on the north side of Lake Crescent and about a

quarter of a mile up from the waters of the lake. The area is fire-scarred, and badly so. It also has a logging railroad running through it and parallel to the lakeshore. This strip does not belong in a national park. Therefore, the north boundary should be redrawn to exclude the burned area as well as the railroad. The boundary should be drawn as the north side of Lake Crescent or, at the most, along the edge of the railroad's right-of-way. The National Park Service, it is understood, stands ready to remedy the objection along the lines mentioned. It is important that it do so.

Finally, and most important of all, there has been omitted from the present Wallgren Bill the following so-called wilderness clause:

"The Mount Olympus National Park shall be permanently reserved as a wilderness and no development of the project or plan for the entertainment of visitors shall be undertaken which will interfere with the preservation intact of unique flora and fauna and the essentially primitive natural conditions now prevailing in the area."

The inclusion of this clause in the bill was sought last year by both the National Park Service and the National Parks Association. Representative Wallgren refused to include it on the premise that it was objectionable to his constituents. Nevertheless, the Association still feels that this clause is vitally necessary to the preservation of the proposed area's primeval character and, therefore, will continue to urge its inclusion in the bill. A great many conservationists want this clause included, and it must be remembered that the moment the (Continued on page 26)

RESOLVED

That the National Parks Association is agreeable to the boundaries of the proposed Mt. Olympus National Park as described in the pending Wallgren Bill.

HOWEVER, the Association still strictly urges the inclusion in the present bill of the wilderness preservation clause that appeared as Section 4 in the original Wallgren Bill.

WANTED: A NATIONAL PRIMEVAL PARK POLICY

EDITORIAL

THE National Park Service was established twenty-one years ago to preserve great natural masterpieces and lesser areas of scientific and historic interest, and to make them available for the benefit of the public without impairment of their original value, and for that purpose only. The Service was not established to promote deliberately the use of the Parks by persons seeking chiefly pleasures of the kind which can be found in and about the seats of civilization—the kind of use which tends to destroy the very values the Parks were created to preserve. It was not established to provide mere playgrounds in such parts of the country as may lack the local initiative to provide such playgrounds for themselves, though this task has been allotted to it of recent years. It was not established as a boosting agency to "point with pride" to the ever increasing multitudes passing through its reservations, and to reach out constantly for greater political power. Yet the things for which it was not created now seem in a fair way to become its new goals. Abandoning much of its former idealism, a considerable element of the Service, under the impact of new duties assigned it and large sums of emergency money placed at its disposal, seems strongly inclined to regard itself as the recreational arbiter of the nation rather than the custodian of a priceless natural heritage. Striking instances of what is happening are cited in Mr. Foote's open letter to the Secretary of the Interior, appearing in this issue.

The National Parks Association is deeply concerned over this situation. From the first we have watched the change in Park Service ideals and policies with apprehension because of its obvious repercussions within the National Primeval Parks. But we have taken no attitude on the question of activities in the state and local recreational field as a proper function of the National Park Service. The objectives of such activities are no doubt praiseworthy, whether or not one believes such a long extension of the federal arm necessary or desirable. Our chief concern is with what is going on in the real National Parks, now generally referred to as "primeval," and in the National Monuments. These, the nation's group of natural and historic masterpieces, have always been the special concern of our Association, as up to very recently they were of the Park Service. For their integrity as a unique and priceless American institution, and for the integrity

of the old Park Service which administered them, we stand firm; and when these are threatened we must speak out in no uncertain terms.

Mr. Foote's open letter, written after an extensive tour of the National Primeval Parks, reveals a two-fold threat to the National Park System. First, there is the threatened demoralization of the old line National Park personnel through lack of well considered policies and of attention to individual park needs on the part of the Washington office. This may be due in large part to interference by the State Park group financed by emergency funds. Second, there is the increasing confusion in the public mind as to what a National Park really is—a situation which may easily lead to a breakdown of the policy of complete preservation of the Primeval Parks, and, as a result, to the disintegration of the System.

The consequences of the present situation are clearly shown in several of the great parks, and some of them are described in the aforementioned open letter. Yosemite Valley, for instance, is now a striking example of what should not be permitted in a National Primeval Park. Overdevelopment is in a fair way not only to mar its natural beauty but to make impossible the enjoyment in a normal way of what remains. Dance halls, vaudeville shows and liquor stores attract and hold crowds which otherwise would not visit the Valley. They have no place in a real National Park. Despite Park Service assertion of a policy that new roads are not to be built in the older parks, a modern speedway through what is now virgin wilderness is being constructed in the Yosemite. Similar conditions obtain in some of the other Primeval Parks; while in others, fortunately, the original setting has, through the strenuous efforts of their superintendents, been preserved for the inspiration of those who really want to see and enjoy them for their own sake.

Obviously, it is easier to criticize than to formulate a remedy for an unfortunate situation. The fine energies of the Park Service should not be cramped and thwarted, but rather so directed that each of the tasks laid upon it shall be performed in the best way possible, and especially that its original function shall not be lost sight of, but shall be carried on with single-hearted devotion to the high ideals and traditions set up and established by Mr. Mather. The National Parks Association (*Continued on page 26*)

FIRST CHAPTER OF THE "TRAIL RIDERS OF THE MNT

FOR YEARS, those who have enjoyed the trails of Glacier Park have discussed and wished for an organization which would bring them together and through which they might bring others that pleasure in lakes and streams, higher peaks, deeper valleys—all that priceless beauty which lies hidden from the casual motorist in Glacier Park.

Last winter, George W. Noffsinger, from his office in Kalispell, Montana, acting as Chairman of an Organizing Committee, wrote to Mr. Arno B. Cammerer and Mr. A. E. Demaray asking their moral support in the formation of a trail riders' organization and, too asking them to accept offices of President and Director, respectively, during the organizing period.

Mr. Noffsinger also wrote Messrs. Horace M. Albright, former director of the National Park Service; Wm. P. Kenney, President of the Great Northern Railway Co.; Albert G. Fragner of the Klaiber Motor Co., San Francisco; Frank J. Taylor, nationally known writer, San Francisco; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University and former Secretary of the Interior, and Mr. E. T. Seoyen, Superintendent of Glacier National Park. These gentlemen, all enthusiasts of out-of-door activities and keenly aware of the great benefits to be derived through more and more recreation in our national park areas, encouraged the undertaking and gave wise counsel for the program. The Great Northern Railway, in addition, offered financial assistance in launching this fine plan.

Letters outlining the proposed organization and its purposes, together with a booklet outlining a five and seven day trail trip were sent to former visitors who had ridden at least fifty miles on the trails of Glacier Park.

The response was most gratifying. Applications for membership accompanied enthusiastic letters and, of the thirty tentative reservations for the first annual trail ride and roundup of members, July 12th to 17th, twenty made the ride.

On this initial ride, all facilities of the Park were used. Members met for luncheon at the Glacier Park Hotel, July 12th, and proceeded by bus to Two Medicine, where they stayed over night at Two Medicine Chalets. During the afternoon, they made a selection of mount and saddle. On the morning of the thirteenth, they set out—riding over Cut Bank Pass to the Rocky Mountain Trail Ranch in Cut Bank Valley.

It was here at the Trail Ranch (formerly the Cut Bank Chalets) that the first meeting of members was held. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The name "Trail Riders of the Mountains" was accepted as the official name of this organization which, too, at this meeting, was made national in scope to include trail riders of all national parks and monuments in our United States. Provision for the formation of local chapters was also made and Glacier Park Chapter was formed.

The aims of the association are as follows: (a) to encourage travel on horseback through the trails of the United States; to foster the maintenance and



VIEWS OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

"THE MOUNTAINS" ORGANIZED IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



improvement of old trails and the building of new trails; to advocate and practice consideration for horses and to promote the breeding of saddle horses suitable for high altitudes; to foster good-fellowship among those who visit our national parks; to encourage the love of out-door life, the study and conservation of birds, wild animals and alpine flowers; to protect the forests against fire; to assist in every way possible to ensure the complete preservation of our National Parks for the use and enjoyment of the public; to create an interest in Indian customs, costumes and traditions; to encourage the preservation of historic sites as related to the early explorers and pioneers and to cooperate to the fullest with the work of the National Park Service and others in the preservation of our forests primeval.

(b) To prepare and circulate maps, descriptions and illustrations of existing and proposed trails, and the country to which they give access in our mountains, and to publish from time to time literature pertaining to such trails and the work of this Association.

(c) To encourage legislation designed to preserve to the public, for all time, rights of way on established trails and free access by trail to mountain, lake, river and forest.

(d) To help maintain the observance of closed and open seasons for fish and game as established by duly constituted authority.

The following officers were elected: President, Albert G. Fragner, San Francisco; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. C. Palmer, Spokane, Dr. Frederic W. Wersebe, Washington, Conn., Mr. Howard Hays, Riverside, Calif. Advisory Council: Messrs. Horace M. Albright, Arno B. Cammerer, A. E. Demaray, A. J. Dickinson, C. O. Jenks, Wm. P. Kenney, E. T. Seoyen, Frank J. Taylor, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur and Miss Isabelle F. Story. In fact, the honorary, or pre-organization officers and directors, were placed on an Advisory Council with the addition of Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Jenks of the Great Northern Railway and Miss Isabelle F. Story of the National Park Service.

A Committee was named to study and plan for the 1939 Annual Trail Ride and Roundup. It is the intention and desire to offer two rides, one in July and one in August, and one of these may be made a pack trip.

There are seventy-five Charter Members of the Trail Riders of the Mountains, national organization, and of Glacier Park Chapter. Seventy-five members from San Francisco to Boston, ready to cooperate with the Park Service on every program of conservation of our national recreation wonderlands; seventy-five members eager to welcome new members in the Trail Riders of the Mountains, Glacier Park Chapter, or to assist in the establishment of new chapters in America's national parks.

ED. NOTE.—For years the "Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies" has proven very popular with Americans as well as Canadians. Now with the successful establishment of a similar organization in this country, opportunity is provided for those who like to travel the back country of our National Parks to do so in the company of others who have mutual interests and enthusiasms.

THE PROPOSED BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

By VICTOR H. CAHALANE
National Park Service

FROM early times the Big Bend of Texas has been a mysterious country guarded by almost waterless deserts and rugged mountains. Indian parties, chiefly on raiding expeditions, hastened north and south through the region, water usually being the immediate objective. Some 200 years ago old Chief Alsate and his band of Apaches are reported to have engaged here in battle with the Comanches. The Apaches were defeated and driven across the Rio Grande into Mexico. Legend fails to recount what happened to Alsate immediately thereafter but eventually his spirit came to watch over the country, and Nature carved his image into a volcanic rock formation high up in the Chisos or Ghost Mountains.

Like most mountainous areas of the Southwest, the Big Bend has its lost mines. The Chisos Mountains are said to hide a Spanish mine, the entrance to which was once visible at sunrise from the church of San Vicente across the river. A more famous treasure is supposed to be in the Lost Nigger Mine, either above the mouth of Regan Canyon on the Texas side east of the proposed national park, or else across the river in the Ladrones Mountains. Naturally, the history and legends about the Big Bend have cast an enchantment over this country and with a growing appreciation of the natural majesty of the area, a move was started a few years ago to establish a great desert national park.

Before considering any of the details of this magnificent country, it would be well to take a general view of the area. From a point on the rim of the mesa comprising the top of the Dead Horse Mountains, which rise nearly 5,000 feet above the desert floor, a view is obtained that almost defies description. Across the desert to the south, miles beyond the Rio Grande River, lies the stone face of the Del Carmen Mountains, the tops rising more than 3,000 feet higher than the observers' position and more than 8,000 feet above sea level. Fourteen miles distant, the desert haze tones down the color (the name Del Carmen is here accurately used) until the wall becomes a dimly colored screen a mile wide and 20 miles long. With the changing position of the desert sun the effect changes and with the lengthening shadows the mountain wall turns to a deep gray. North of the Del Carmens, west of the Sierra del Caballo Muerto, and in the middle of the Big Bend, is another grand mountain mass—that of the Chisos. From

a high point on the north side of the Chisos—Emory Peak, nearly 8,000 feet in elevation—one can see to the north far into Texas across the more level desert.

The view from the south rim, however, is most magnificent. One suddenly comes out on the top of a long wall dropping sheer for about 1,500 feet and then on a more gradual slope into a jumble of foothills and canyons that stretch almost to the Rio Grande. The river itself can be seen in the distance on the west coming out of the vertical cut called the Santa Helena Canyon, meandering peacefully through the desert, plunging again into Merical Canyon and, miles below, entering Boquillas Canyon.

To the geologist the Big Bend presents a tremendous variety of phenomena. There is ample field for research and study of physiography, stratigraphy, structure, historical geology, paleontology, volcanism, petrography, and mineralogy. Very briefly, the formation of the Big Bend area came about as follows: During the Paleozoic era the rocks were uplifted as part of a great mountain range which extended to the eastward for an unknown distance. During a tremendously long period thereafter erosion reduced these mountains until they were almost a plain elevated slightly above the sea. An advance of the sea from the south covered the remains of the ancient mountains and laid down the thick bed of limestone which is the most conspicuous formation in the Big Bend outside of the Chisos Mountains themselves. Volcanic activity increased after there were deposited several hundred feet of additional strata containing dinosaur bones and specimens of enormous clam-like shells as much as four feet in length. During the formation of the upper part of these thick beds, the area of the Big Bend was uplifted from the sea to form a large land mass. This movement was accompanied by volcanic eruptions and intrusions of molten rock. That continued until there was deposited a great thickness of ash and rock fragments blown from the crater. During this mountain-building period, the vast folds and faults of the Chisos country were formed. Erosion then removed some of the softer sediments, leaving the harder and more resistant beds to form the present Chisos Range.

Today, the Chisos Mountains stand on a flat or gradually sloping creosote-bush desert which is un-

marked except by erosion gulches or arroyos. This rather flat land ranges from about 3,500 feet near the foothills of the mountains to 2,000 feet or less along the river. Bordering the Chisos Mountains on all sides, and particularly on the west and southwest for a considerable distance, are foothills and broken country with frequently isolated peaks and mesas. The Chisos Mountains themselves are exceptionally rugged, bisected by numerous steep canyons and characterized by many vertical rock walls. In the canyons are a considerable number of springs but in most of the rough foothills country and on the flats there is no permanent water. Even the largest streams, Terlingua and Willow, west of the Chisos, and Tornillo Creek to the east and north are "creeks" only after rains. The climate varies greatly in different parts of the proposed park area. The lowest parts are, of course, the hottest and driest. The yearly rainfall is limited to local showers in the late summer.

As one enters the area from the northern out-

posts of Alpine or Marathon he is struck by the desert vegetation, the most conspicuous being the creosote bush. Also prominent are mesquite, ocotillo, prickly pears, yucca, and lechuguilla. Certain species are very abundant in some places and entirely absent elsewhere. The presence of many other species of plants serves to give considerable variety to the scene. Herbaceous plants are almost entirely lacking over most of the flat country. This condition, however, is probably not normal but due to excessive overgrazing, which has been the cause of marked erosion in many places.

Most of the woody plants mentioned previously as occurring on the flats extend up the lower foothills of the mountains to an elevation of 4,000 feet or more, but in the lower canyons there are entirely new groups of plants: buckeye, desert willow, apache plume, ash, hackberry and persimmon. Still higher, the growth of woody plants becomes more dense and consists of several species of oaks, pinyon pine, various junipers, and species of *Acacia* and *Mimosa*.



Geo. A. Grant

THE SIERRA DEL CARMEN FROM THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE PROPOSED BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

The principal succulents on the mountains, except on the summits, are lechuguilla, century plant, maguey, setol and bear grass. In cooler situations of some of the higher canyons there is found Arizona cypress, Douglas fir, madrone and yellow pine. Grasses are fairly abundant in some places in the mountains and herbaceous flowering plants very numerous. Probably the flora of the mountains has changed considerably during the past 25 years due to overgrazing and fires and this has perhaps been reflected by changes of the fauna.

Wildlife technicians of the National Park Service have found four species of frogs and a toad, three turtles and at least 15 species of lizards in the proposed park area. Over 20 kinds of snakes, including at least 4 species of rattlesnakes, are known to occur. The broad-tailed beaver is found in the Rio Grande. Tree squirrels and porcupines are among the mammal groups that are absent from the mountains, possibly because an extensive area surrounding the Chisos Mountains is treeless semi-desert. In the pro-

posed park area, as a whole, the mammals most frequently seen are Texas jackrabbits. The most abundant mammals are various species of *Peromyscus* (especially in the mountains) and *Perognathus* (especially in the lowlands). There are several other outstanding species, however, which serve to make the fauna of this locality intensely interesting. A few black bears are present and they seem to be holding their own. Bears have been recently seen in the Chisos Mountains and they have been reported from the Dead Horse, Christmas and Rosillos Ranges. This species is now adequately protected in the Big Bend region. Coyotes are still somewhat common on the desert. Mountain lions are present in small numbers but are continually persecuted on private land. The vigor of the local campaign against lions (which are trapped and poisoned because of fear of depredations on sheep, goats and colts) makes it urgent that the National Park Service be placed in a position whereby the species can be saved from complete extermination. In the foothills the wary peccary still



Geo. A. Grant

THE MOUTH OF THE SANTA HELENA CANYON, WHERE THE RIO GRANDE BREAKS THROUGH THE MESA ANGULA



Geo. A. Grant

VIEW THROUGH THE WINDOW, CHISOS MOUNTAINS, IN THE PROPOSED BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

exists in fair numbers and its perpetuation seems assured as it is now protected by State law. These small pigs have acute senses and show a preference for dense vegetation such as catclaw and mesquite which they usually manage to reach quickly on short notice of danger. Mule deer are fairly common in the foothills despite their subjection to an annual open season. In the Chisos Mountain proper the Arizona white-tail is very plentiful and recent investigation indicates the possible presence of a third species, the Texan white-tail.

The birds of the region have been studied by a number of specialists, most recently by Van Tyne, of Michigan, and Sutton, of Cornell. A total of 239 forms have been recorded from Brewster County—the county in which the proposed park area is located, and most of these can be expected to occur at some time in the park area.

Common are the roadrunner and scaled quail. Several species, such as the Couch jay, Colima warbler, the Texas blue-throated hummingbird, Mexican

phainopepla and dwarf red-shafted flicker are found nowhere else in the United States and this represents the northern end of their ranges. Other species whose ranges here reach their northeastern limit are the painted redstart, Stephens vireo and the lucifer hummingbird. The region also forms the southeastern limit of the breeding range of the western tanager and western flycatcher. From this sketch it will be seen that the Big Bend area, both physiographically and faunistically, forms practically the northeastern outpost of the eastern escarpment of the Mexican tableland. As such it is unusual.

There has been rapid progress toward creation of a national park in the Big Bend. Within a couple of years of the time that agitation began for the establishment, the Texas State Legislature in 1933 passed an act enabling the transfer of publicly owned lands in the Big Bend for State park purposes. On June 20, 1935, the President of the United States approved an Act to provide for the establishment of the Big Bend National Park.



DREAM LAKE AND HALLETT'S PEAK

Geo. A. Grant

**THIS AND 20 OTHER LAKES NOW THREATENED WITH
DRAINAGE BY TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION!**

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TUNNEL HEARING

**Statement of the National Parks Association
at the hearing before the Secretary of the Interior November 12, 1937, on the Colorado-Big Thompson Water Diversion Project, presented by James A. Foote, Executive Secretary.**

ON two different occasions, once in the second session of the 74th Congress and again in the first session of the 75th Congress, the National Parks Association has expressed its vigorous opposition at committee hearings in the House of Representatives to the proposal to construct a power and irrigation tunnel through the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park. Here today, as in the past, we again express our vigorous disapproval of and continued opposition to a recent item included in the Interior Department Appropriation Bill for 1937, carrying \$900,000 of federal funds for the purpose of beginning construction of this tunnel project. Representing, as this project does, the commercial invasion of the National Park System, there is more we feel to be considered before final approval is given than merely facts and figures based on an engineering report of a Bureau of Reclamation that has refused consistently to discuss the other angles involved. What has invariably appeared to be a lack of attention on the part of proponents of this power and irrigation scheme to national park standards has been based on the presence of a clause in the Congressional act that created Rocky Mountain National Park. This clause has been construed as giving the Reclamation Bureau the right to invade this area at any time and at any place for the purpose of constructing an irrigation project. We admit the existence of this clause with its legal and technical implications, but we point out that the inclusion of the clause was originally opposed by the Park Service on the ground that it would create a dangerous precedent. The wording in the establishing act was provided by Secretary Lane because certain lands around Grand Lake had been withdrawn in 1904 for use in connection with the Grand Lake project on the western slope. Plans to use Grand Lake for this project were abandoned in 1921, rendering the application of the clause to this project of which we are speaking inoperative. Its reason no longer exists. Furthermore, it should also be pointed out at this time that the act creating the park stipulates that no irrigation or power project shall be constructed within the park except "whenever consistent with

the primary purposes of the park." Going even still further, it is pointed out that on March 3, 1921, President Wilson excluded then existing national parks and monuments from the scope of the Federal Water Power Act by signing an amendment thereto. And so, down through the years the United States Government has been on record as opposed to power developments in national parks and monuments. Forty per cent of this present project is devoted to power, in spite of the fact that it is consistently referred to as a federal reclamation project in the field of land irrigation. How then can the Bureau of Reclamation, which claims it is authorized to enter Rocky Mountain National Park for irrigation purposes, drag into it as well a power project of decidedly major proportions and construe this invasion as "consistent with the primary purposes of the park?"

A primary standard in the administration of the National Park System states in very plain language that "parks must be kept free from all industrial use." There was a very real purpose in applying this safeguarding clause to the nation's national parks. It established that most important precedent by which Congress and the Government has been guided for many years in the creation and administration of national parks. It serves as protection against despoilation by thoughtless commercialists of those few and comparatively small areas in America today which all the world knows as national parks. It left, however, other areas decidedly larger in size and in the scope of their uses open to commercial projects whenever such projects might be needed. Realizing this, the National Parks Association has for two years continuously asked that a survey be made for an alternate route around the southern boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, thereby eliminating the park from this proposed power project. The areas to the south of the Park through which an alternate route might conceivably carry this diverted water consist of lands that by virtue of their present ownership would permit such construction without the stringent restrictions that national parks are required to place upon commercial invasions. The Reclamation Bureau, without going too deeply into the subject, has stated that a probable lack of fifty per cent in power facilities would undoubtedly make the cost of an alternate route to the south considerably more. This may or may not be so. In any event, it seems rather improbable that any agreement on figures can be reached until a survey of the

alternate route has been made. But even in the event of higher cost for an alternate route, the sacrifice of national park standards and values will ultimately prove considerably greater and can never be replaced. And it seems very strange indeed that the proponents of the Rocky Mountain tunnel project, who jammed a \$900,000 authorization through Congress against the recommendations of the Bureau of the Budget, should at this time be directing so much of their attention to the subject of additional expense.

There is another point involved in the proposed construction of this Rocky Mountain tunnel, and that is the physical damage to the Park that may result therefrom. We know that in the construction of the Moffat tunnel just a few miles south of this proposed tunnel the drainage of at least one lake was caused by the digging of the tunnel, despite the fact that the most elaborate precautions in the matter of lining the tunnel were used. The proposed Rocky Mountain tunnel just a few miles north of the mouth of the Moffat tunnel will pass underneath a very extensive water table. With the sad experience suffered just a few miles away, how can Reclamation Bureau engineers honestly make any definite statement that the water table in Rocky Mountain will not be affected in a similar manner? Geologists have told us that considerable unstable ground in the form of shear zones will be encountered in driving the bore. The tapping of this unstable earth and the blasting is very likely to have some effect on the water table of the surface above. Twenty-three of the Park's alpine lakes are located near the bore. These little lakes are a vital part of the park picture, and, as in the case of other national parks, it was to preserve such scenic features that Rocky Mountain was originally established by the Federal Government. How then has the Reclamation Bureau felt justified in informing the general public that these lakes and adjacent streams will in no way be affected?

Let us look just a little more into possible physical damage that may be done to this park by the construction of the tunnel. This is quite a long tunnel—thirteen miles in length. The Reclamation Bureau has said nothing about removal of debris in the event that shafts are needed. We must question this, for smaller tunnels have had to have more than two working faces before they were successfully completed. Now we are asked to believe that this great tunnel can be constructed with only two working faces, that twin bore cross-overs will not be necessary and that no shafts will be sunk from above. It is easy enough for the Reclamation Bureau to assure us that it can meet any of the engineering problems that must be faced in this construction. Perhaps this is so, and then again perhaps it is not. In

any event, there seems to be the possibility that shafts will be needed. If they are, can it honestly be said that no material or physical damage will be done to the Park? Hardly, when you consider that roads sufficiently well built to carry machinery necessary for the construction of these shafts will be needed. What assurance has the Reclamation Bureau given that roads and shafts will not be needed? Construction camps and the attendant unsightliness which construction camps invariably bring with them is just another item which the Reclamation Bureau considers too small to be of any particular harm to an area designed and created to preserve scenic features.

These few statements as to the possible damage to the Park's primitive conditions are made here today with the full knowledge that their possibility has been denied before and will be denied again by those who urge this tunnel project. On the other hand, the very fact that a good many people think that they can happen is justifiable reason to question not so much the motives of the Reclamation Bureau, but the manner of reasoning by which it has arrived at such ultimate, albeit peculiar, conclusions.

There is one final point to be considered in the matter of a commercial invasion of this or any other park in the National Park System, and that point is the establishment of a new and damaging Congressional precedent for the future creation and administration of national parks in this country. One rotten apple in any barrel will spoil the rest in due time. By like token, one commercial invasion of a national park will mean commercial invasion of other national parks in due time.

Only a few years ago the policy that parks must be kept free from all industrial use saved Yellowstone from a diversion project somewhat similar to this which we are discussing today. If the result of these hearings proves the go-ahead signal on the Rocky Mountain tunnel, the policy of keeping National Parks free from all industrial use will be violated, and a new precedent established dangerous enough to cause justifiable doubt as to the sanctity of the remaining parks in the System. In our opinion no amount of excuses for the commercial invasion of any one park can offset a resultant policy that will sooner or later affect the System as a whole.

These are the beliefs of the National Parks Association, its members and its affiliates, who feel confident that embodied within the foregoing statements is the doctrine of fair play and the greatest good for the greatest number.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—The Colorado-Big Thompson project is a public warning that preservation of the National Parks will be accomplished only by an aggressive and unified opposition to ALL projects that would despoil the parks.

BOOK LIST

NATIONAL PARKS • RECREATION
WILDLIFE • TREES • FLOWERS
CAMPING • HUNTING • FISHING

(listed alphabetically)

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	YEAR
A Book of Hours	Donald C. Peattie	G. P. Putnam's Sons	1937
A National Plan for American Forestry, 2v.	(Government Report)	U. S. Gov't Printing Office	1933
American Conservation in Picture and Story	Ed. by Ovid Butler	American Forestry Association	1935
Animal Life in Yellowstone	Vernon Bailey	C. C. Thomas	1930
Better Trout Streams	E. R. Hewitt	Charles Scribner's Sons	1931
Big Trees of the Giant Forest	George W. Stewart	A. M. Robertson	1930
Book of the National Parks	Robert Sterling Yard	Charles Scribner's Sons	1928
Camping Out	Ed. by L. H. Weir	Macmillan	1924
Camps in the Woods	Augustus D. Shepard	Architectural Book Pub. Co.	1931
Conservation in the United States	Van Hise and Havemeyer	Macmillan	1930
Death Valley, The Facts	W. A. Chalfant	Stanford University Press	1930
Deserts on the March	P. B. Sears	University of Oklahoma Press	1935
Ferns and Flowering Plants of Hawaii Nat'l Park	Otto Degener	Honolulu Star-Bulletin	1930
Field Book of American Wild Flowers	F. S. Mathews	G. P. Putnam's Sons	1902
Field Book of Western Wild Flowers	Margaret N. Armstrong	G. P. Putnam's Sons	1915
Fish and Game, Now or Never	Harry B. Hawes	Appleton-Century	1935
Forest Bankruptcy in America	G. P. Ahern	Shenandoah Publishing House	1934
Forests and Mankind	C. L. Pack and Tom Gill	Macmillan	1929
Game Management	Aldo Leopold	Charles Scribner's Sons	1933
Government Problems in Wildlife Conservation	Robert H. Connery	Columbia University Press	1935
Grand Canyon Country	M. R. Tillotson and F. J. Taylor	Stanford University Press	1935
Lives of Game Animals	E. T. Seton	Doubleday, Page & Co.	1925
Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada	Clarence King and F. P. Farquhar	W. W. Norton & Co.	1935
My Friend the Black Bass	Harry B. Hawes	Fred. A. Stokes	1930
National Parks Portfolio	Robert Sterling Yard	U. S. Dept. of the Interior	1916
Oh Ranger	H. M. Albright and Frank J. Taylor	Stanford University Press	1928
Our Federal Lands	Robert Sterling Yard	Charles Scribner's Sons	1928
Our Mobile Earth	R. A. Daly	Macmillan	1918
Our National Forests	R. H. D. Boerker	Houghton, Mifflin Co.	1901
Our National Parks	John Muir	Outing Publishing Co.	1912
Packing and Portaging	Dillon Wallace	Frederick Gumbrecht	1935
Picturesque America, Its Parks and Playgrounds	J. F. Kane	Stanford University Press	1931
Rainbow Canyons	Scovyn and Taylor	Macmillan	1936
Rich Land, Poor Land	Stuart Chase	Farrar & Rinehart	1930
Roaming the Rockies	John T. Fairs	Macmillan	1930
Taking Trout with a Dry Fly	S. G. Camp	Harper & Bros.	1922
Tales of Lonely Trails	Zane Grey	The Cavern Supply Co.	1935
The Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico	A. W. Anderson	Charles Scribner's Sons	1930
The Living Past	John C. Merriam	Wolfer Printing Co.	1928
The Lore and the Lure of Sequoia	Robert Earl Wilson	Smith & Haas	1933
The People's Forests	Robert Marshall	University of California Press	1936
The Redwoods of Coast and Sierra	James C. Shirley	Charles Scribner's Sons	1929
The Top of the Continent	Robert Sterling Yard	Macmillan	1925
The Tragedy of Waste	Stuart Chase	Houghton, Mifflin	1912
Timber Trees of the United States	Simon B. Elliott	Stanford University Press	1932
Trees of Yosemite	Mary Curry Tresidder	D. Appleton	1920
What Bird is That?	Frank M. Chapman	C. K. Reed	1910
Wild Flowers East of the Rockies	Chester A. Reed	Charles Scribner's Sons	1930
Wilderness of Denali (McKinley Park)	Charles Sheldon		

KEEPING YOUR EYE ON CONGRESS

FOllowing is a brief summary of legislation already proposed in Congress but not yet enacted into law, which will affect National Park

administration. The National Parks Association presents a partial list of the proposed laws in approves under "YES," the ones it disapproves under "NO."

YES

- H.R. 1495** To provide for the acquisition of additional land for the *Acadia National Park*. Introduced by Mr. Brewster, Jan. 5, 1937.
- H.R. 1995** To add certain lands on the island of Hawaii to the *Hawaii National Park*. Introduced by Mr. King, Jan. 6, 1937. Passed House, April 19, 1937. Passed Senate, amended August 7, 1937.
- H.R. 4070
(S. 1542)** To change the designations of the *Abraham Lincoln National Military Park*, in the State of Kentucky, and the *Fort McHenry National Park*, in the State of Maryland. *H.R. 4070*. Introduced by Mr. DeRouen at the request of the Department, Feb. 1, 1937. Reported out by House Committee on Public Lands, March 17, 1937. *S. 1542*. Introduced by Mr. Adams at the request of the Department, Feb. 15, 1937.
- H.R. 4548** To repeal the proviso of, and amend, the Act of May 18, 1928 (ch. 626, 45 Stat. 603), making additions to the Absaroka and Gallatin National Forests and improving and extending the winter-feed facilities of the elk, antelope, and other game animals of *Yellowstone National Park* and adjacent land, and for other purposes. Introduced by Mr. DeRouen at the request of the Department, Feb. 9, 1937.
- H.R. 4724** To establish the *Mount Olympus National Park*, in the State of Washington, and for other purposes. Introduced by Mr. Wallgren, Feb. 15, 1937. Reported out of House Public Lands Committee, Aug. 16, 1937.
- H.R. 7825
(S. 2935)** To authorize the use of certain facilities of national parks and national monuments for elementary school purposes. *H.R. 7825*. Introduced by Mr. DeRouen at request of Department, July 12, 1937. Reported out by House Public Lands Committee, July 21, 1937. *S. 2935*. Introduced by Mr. Adams at request of the Department, Aug. 10, 1937.
- S.J. Res. 69** To authorize an investigation of the proposed *Sawtooth National Park* in the State of Idaho. Introduced by Mr. Pope, Feb. 8, 1937. Reported upon favorably by Department to Senate Public Lands Committee, Mar. 30, 1937.

NO

- H.R. 1964** To authorize the appropriation of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to locate and construct through the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia, and D. C. a highway to be known as *Eastern National Park to Park Highway*. Introduced by Mr. Taylor, Jan. 6, 1937.
- H.R. 2500** To establish the *Breaks of Sandy National Park* in Virginia and Kentucky. Introduced by Mr. May, Jan. 11, 1937.
- H.R. 5864
(H.R. 6599)** To provide for the establishment of the *Katahdin National Park* in the State of Maine, and for other purposes. *H.R. 5864*. Introduced by Mr. Brewster, Mar. 23, 1937. Preliminary report made by Department to House Public Lands Committee, May 25, 1937. *H.R. 6599*. Introduced by Mr. Brewster April 22, 1937. Preliminary report made by Department to House Public Lands Committee, May 25, 1937.
- H.R. 6901** To provide for the establishment of a national park or monument in the township of Perry, Fayette County, Pa. (including *George Washington Grist Mill* and adjacent property). Introduced by Mr. Snyder May 6, 1937.
- H.R. 7558** To extend the mining laws of the United States to the *Joshua Tree National Monument*, Calif. Introduced by Mr. Sheppard, June 17, 1937.
- S. 442
(See S. 1627)** To establish the *Shoshone Ice Caves National Park* of Idaho. Introduced by Mr. Pope, Jan. 8, 1937. Reported upon adversely by Department to Senate Public Lands Committee, March 30, 1937.
- S. 1060** To authorize loans for the construction of recreational housing accommodations in national parks and national forests. Introduced by Mr. McNary, Jan. 23, 1937. Reported upon adversely by Department to Committee on Finance, April 24, 1937.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS APPOINTED

UNDER a new plan, announced by the Secretary of the Interior last August, the National Park Service is now organized into four regions. Directors have been appointed for each region. Their offices are in Richmond, Omaha, Oklahoma City and San Francisco. Each director will spend nine months of the year in his own regional office and the remaining three months in Washington. This arrangement is to help assure closer cooperation and understanding between the men in the field and the main office in Washington—a new move distinctly progressive in National Park administration.

DR. CARL P. RUSSELL—Director of Region 1. Office in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Russell began his park career on June 1, 1923, as a Ranger in Yosemite National Park. Within the course of a few months he was appointed Park Naturalist in Yosemite. A few years later, in 1929, he was promoted to Field Naturalist-at-Large with offices in San Francisco. In January, 1935, Dr. Russell succeeded to the position of Museum Expert in the Branch of Research and Education, to be followed in August, 1936, by appointment as Chief of the Wildlife Division. Included under Dr. Russell's jurisdiction are all the parks east of Texas, the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and Indiana.

THOMAS J. ALLEN, JR.—Director of Region 2. Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Allen began his long and diversified career in the National Park Service as a ranger in Mt. Rainier National Park in June, 1920. Transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park on March 16, 1932, his promotion to Chief Ranger, and subsequently to Assistant Superintendent of that area, followed quickly. Nineteen twenty-eight saw his appointment to the superintendency of Hawaii National Park, to be followed by rapid advancement through the next eight years as Superintendent of Zion and Bryce, Arkansas Hot Springs and Rocky Mountain National Parks, respectively. A splendid executive of diversified experience, Mr. Allen's long career in the national park field ranks



LEFT TO RIGHT: MESSRS. KITTRIDGE ALLEN, MAIER, RUSSELL

him high in the Service which he so ably represents. The parks under Mr. Allen's jurisdiction are Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Wind Cave and Rocky Mountain.

HERBERT MAIER—Acting Director of Region 3. Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Maier began his career in May, 1933, as district officer in state park conservation work. On March 1, 1935, he was appointed Regional Officer under the Emergency Conservation Works with headquarters in Oklahoma City. At present he is serving in an acting capacity, but permanent appointment is to follow later. National parks under Mr. Maier's jurisdiction are Grand Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns and Platt.

FRANK A. KITTRIDGE—Director of Region 4. Office in San Francisco. Mr. Kittridge started his career on October 1, 1927, as a result of transfer from the Bureau of Public Roads to the position of Chief Engineer in the National Park Service. Wide experience, fine ability and a profound belief in national park standards find Mr. Kittridge well qualified to administer the region which includes Glacier, Mount McKinley, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, Lassen Volcanic, Yosemite, General Grant and Sequoia National Parks.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

(Continued from page 5)

primeval parks. Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, summed up the question presently under discussion with this succinct statement: "*Areas whose principle qualification is adaptability for recreational use are not, of course, of national park caliber.*"

The solution to the whole problem can be found in the idea of a National Primeval Park System that would differentiate in classification between the major national parks and the lesser areas. In urging this idea upon Congress, the government and the people some eighteen months ago, the National Parks Association feared that the situation discussed herein would sooner or later develop. Writing in the February, 1937, issue of the NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN, William P. Wharton emphasized: "*National Primeval Parks should be kept distinct, we believe, not only in name but also in administration, from all others. This is the only sure safety of that great system.*"

As a practical way to make a start, it is suggested that the administration of primeval parks and monuments and the creation of new ones be placed entirely in the hands of the old National Park Service and yourself as Secretary of the Interior. Return the state park organization to the place it was intended for *under control of the Service* to assume its original role in the state park field, in the creation and administration of federal recreational and other areas as such, but not as national parks. This is no original idea. In fact, at the start of the state park movement the above set-up prevailed and worked well. Then, too, the National Capital Parks of Washington are operated under the National Park Service but in a system all their own. There is no reason, therefore, why the distinction between primeval national parks and other lesser areas, in name as well as in administration, cannot succeed. In any event, such distinction must be made and made now if the major national parks are to survive.

The National Parks Association puts the issue squarely before you in full confidence that the recommendations made here will receive attention and that immediate steps will be taken to correct the existing situation and assure the future of America's national primeval park system.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES A. FOOTE,
Executive Secretary,
National Parks Association.

YOUTH ON MT. OLYMPUS

(Continued from page 12)

Olympic park is created the area ceases to be of purely local concern. It becomes a part and parcel of the federal domain—a primeval work whose ownership is vested in the national public and whose welfare and concern is of interest to the whole American people. So, in the matter of the inclusion of this clause it might be well to bear this thought in mind. It is sincerely hoped that both Representative Wallgren and his constituents will cooperate with the Park Service and conservation agencies in this respect, that the creation of this park under the most favorable of auspices may be well assured.

The National Parks Association looks forward with confidence to the creation of the Mt. Olympus National Park in this session of Congress. We expect the National Park Service to so administer it as to retain its wilderness entity. We believe that people of all ages will enjoy it. Primarily, it must be kept roadless and free from tawdry developments; it should remain as it is—a rugged country of trails and shelters and camp-sites; and by virtue of its great appeal and tremendous inspiration, it should be created as a nation's tribute to a younger generation—a national park for American youth.



EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 13)

does not find fault with the ambition of the Park Service to stimulate and help to develop local playgrounds and other similar recreational activities. We do look to the Service, however, to give its first attention to its original job of preservation. We look to it to keep the administration of the National Primeval Parks separate and distinct from all other phases of its work. We look to it to administer those parks in accordance with the law which created the Service and placed them in its care. We look to it to preserve and perfect that system, as it would a collection of great masterpieces of art, protecting it not only from commercialism and exploitation, but also from degradation, whether through admission of second-rate areas to the system or through over-development certain to result in misuse and irreparable damage. Here is a challenge to test the mettle of any group of men devoted to the public service.

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*The purpose and work of the Association are
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